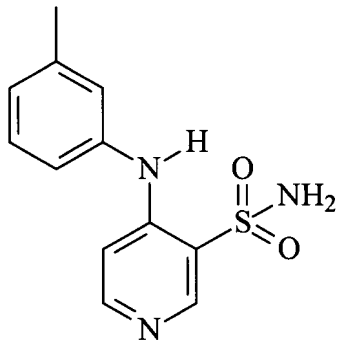
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for preparing torsemide or salts thereof comprising:

a) reacting a compound of formula **II**



with isopropyl isocyanate in the presence of an alkali carbonate or bicarbonate and an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, acetone, methyl isobutyl ketone and mixtures thereof to form an alkali torsemide mixture,

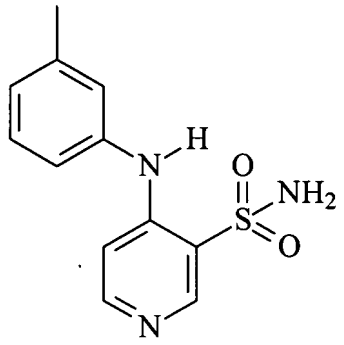
b) recovering the alkali torsemide mixture as a salt,

c) optionally recovering the torsemide by acidification of the alkali torsemide mixture; [[and]]

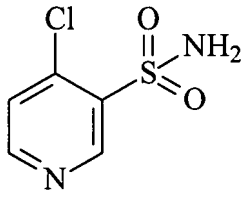
d) wherein ~~said process~~ step a) is carried out in the absence of triethylamine and water.

Claim 2 (canceled)

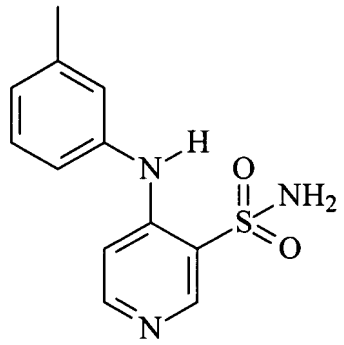
Claim 3 (previously presented): A process for preparing a compound of formula **II**



comprising reacting a compound of formula **I**



with m-toluidine in an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of a C1 to C6 alcohol to form a compound of formula **II**

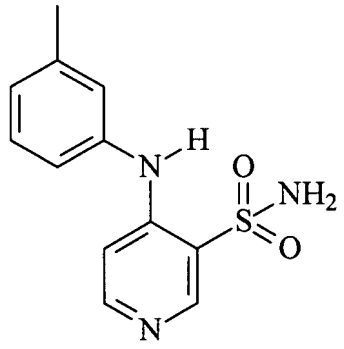


wherein said process is carried out in the absence of at least one of the following:

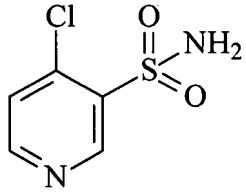
i) a copper catalyst; and/or

ii) triethylamine.

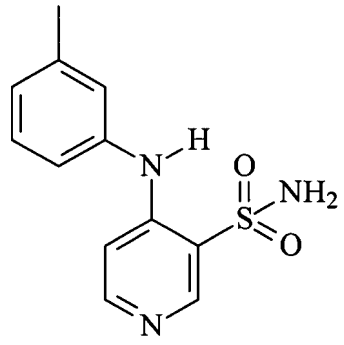
Claim 4 (previously presented): A process for preparing a compound of formula **II**



comprising reacting a compound of formula **I**



with m-toluidine in an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of n-butanol to form a compound of formula **II**



wherein said process is carried out in the absence of at least one of the following:

i) a copper catalyst; and/or

ii) triethylamine.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali carbonate is sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, or lithium carbonate.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali bicarbonate is sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, or lithium bicarbonate.

Claim 8 (canceled):

Claim 9 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the alkali torsemide mixture is converted to torsemide by dissolving in water followed by acidification.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the acid used for acidification is a water soluble acid.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The process of claim 1 wherein the acid used for acidification is acetic acid.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, 3 or 4 wherein the purity of the torsemide is at least about 99.5%.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, 3 or 4 wherein the purity of torsemide is at least 98%.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)